

*Appl. No. 10/696,442*  
*Preliminary Amendment dated Jan. 6, 2004*

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Alternately, the structure of filter element 15 can be a tubular or cylindrical filter element 15", such as is shown in Figure 3. Generally, a tubular filter element includes an extension of filter media 25' between two end caps 41, 42. The filter element 15 has an outer surface 32 and an inner surface 34, which defines an interior volume 35. The first end cap 41 is often an "open" end cap that ~~allow~~ allows access to interior volume 35; the second end cap 42 is often a "closed" end cap that extends across the entire bottom of tubular filter element 15" and does not allow access to interior volume 35. An outer liner 28' can be disposed over outer surface 32 of filter element 15" to protect filter media 25'; an inner liner can be disposed over inner surface 34. Filter media 25' is at least one of a particulate filter element and a chemical filter element, as described below, or filter media 25' removes both particulate and chemical contaminants.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to Figures 4 and 5, two physical embodiments of filter assemblies configured according to the principles of this invention are shown. In Figure 4, filter assembly 10 is in the nature of a panel filter 110 having a housing 105 with a first side 112 and a second side 114. Panel filter 110 includes a physical filter portion 120 at first side 112. Physical filter portion 120 is configured as a louvered grate 116 for removing large particulate, such as leaves and debris. Grate 116 can be integral with housing 105 or can be removable from housing 105. A flange 107 extends from housing 105 away from grate 116. A gasket can be ~~provide~~ provided with flange 107 to provide improved sealing of panel filter 110 with an inlet port of any equipment, such as a fuel cell.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Typically, the fuel cell 102 for use with the filter assembly is known as a "low temperature fuel cell" because of its low operation temperature, typically about 70 to 90°C. High temperature fuel cells are also known, however, these are typically not as sensitive to chemical contamination due to their higher operating temperature. High temperature fuel cells are however sensitive to particulate contamination, and some forms of chemical contamination, and may benefit from the type of filtration system described herein. One type of low temperature fuel cell is commonly referred to as a "PEM", is named for its use of a proton exchange membrane. PEM fuel cells will benefit by being used in conjunction with a filter assembly according to the present invention. Examples of other various types of fuel cells that can be used in combination with the filter assembly of the present invention include, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,110,611; 6,117,579; 6,103,415; and 6,083,637, the disclosures of which are incorporated ~~here~~ herein by reference. It will be recognized by one skilled in the art of fuel cells that the filter assembly will benefit the operation of generally any fuel cell.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 28 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The exact level of contamination, and types of contaminants that are acceptable will vary depending on the catalyst used, the operating conditions, and the catalytic process efficiency requirements.